

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000881

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

-----

#### HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
Turkey, U.S. agreement on Mosul, Kirkuk - Hurriyet  
Critical day: Powell to disclose evidence against Iraq -  
Turkiye  
120,000 Turkish troops to Northern Iraq to halt refugees -  
Sabah  
U.S. troops to Iraq via Iskenderun - Aksam  
Peace hopes diminishing - Vatan  
Baykal warns Gul: Kurdish state must be prevented - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS  
Nuclear threat to Baghdad - Radikal  
Government to handle war authorization after Sacrifice  
Holiday - Zaman  
Oil prices will soar if U.S. attacks - Yeni Safak  
In war, U.S. will save oil wells first - Cumhuriyet

FINANCIAL JOURNALS  
Central Bank: Turkey needs 2.5 year for full stability -  
Dunya  
Inflation on the rise - Finansal Forum

#### BRIEFING

Iraq: Prime Minister Gul reportedly told opposition party  
CHP leader Baykal on Monday that the government would allow  
350 warplanes and 40,000 U.S. troops on Turkish territory.  
Gul said the issue would be discussed in the parliament  
right after the U.S. presents evidence against Iraq to the  
UNSC on February 5. Gul emphasized that U.S. offers for  
reparation of Turkey's losses were 'satisfactory,' according  
to the reports. Many AKP deputies are against a war, and  
the government is exerting an effort to convince them to  
approve the presence of foreign troops in Turkey. "Aksam"  
says that Gul has assured Baykal that U.S. troops will only  
be given transit passage to Northern Iraq via Turkey's  
Iskenderun harbor. "Sabah" reports that Turkey will send to  
Northern Iraq about 120,000 troops as a 'preventive  
measure.' "Hurriyet" reports that Turkey, the U.S., and the  
Northern Iraqi Kurdish groups have worked out an  
understanding regarding Mosul and Kirkuk. According to the  
report, Turkish and Kurdish troops will not enter Mosul and  
Kirkuk, the security in that area will be guaranteed by the  
U.S., and Turkey will have the right to intervene if the  
Kurds attempt to occupy the area.

"Milliyet" on the new U.S. envoy to Turkey: "Milliyet"  
evaluates a recent NYT story that U.S. Ambassador to Ankara,  
Robert Pearson, will be replaced by Vice President Cheney's  
advisor Eric Edelman. The paper criticizes Ambassador  
Pearson for denying a Milliyet report accusing the U.S. of  
carrying out secret meetings with PKK leaders in Northern  
Iraq. The paper denounces former and current U.S. envoys  
for launching covert threats to Turkey, and expects the new  
ambassador to establish good ties with the Turkish  
government on the basis of mutual interest.

Cyprus: Papers carry UK Cyprus envoy Sir Michael Hannay's

warning that a failure to compromise on Cyprus will have a negative impact on Turkey's EU drive. Following his meetings at the MFA on Monday, Sir Hannay pointed to the limited time for substantive changes to the Annan plan, and added that he has seen signs of compromise on the Greek Cypriot side. Hannay noted that once the Greek Cypriots gain full EU membership, it will be more difficult to reach an agreement that is acceptable to the Turkish side. He complained about Denktas' efforts to block the discussion of land issues. Sir Hannay believes the issue of Turkish troops on the island should be discussed with the Turkish government.

Economy: The wholesale price inflation figure for January was 5.6 percent, and consumer price inflation was 2.6 percent, marking unexpected increases in the annual inflation rates to 32.6 percent and 26.4 percent respectively. Reports claim that the increase in inflation for the first time in 12 months has been caused by the government's indecisiveness and excessive spending. Dailies call attention to the 40,000 workers who have lost their jobs in the banking sector. 15,000 of the workers have applied for just 10 new vacancies at Garanti Bank. Meanwhile, the Turkish Aerospace Industry (TAI) will complete production of 30 Cougar AS-532 helicopters in February, according to press reports.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"For the sake of a lame-duck dictator"  
Editor-in-Chief Ertugrul Ozkok opined in mass appeal Hurriyet (2/4): "Saddam Hussein is a 'de facto' lame duck even as we speak. It will be a miracle if Iraq shows bravery in the war. Turkey should make its plans based on real politics and stay away from conventional or old-fashioned stances. Turkey is a genuine force in this region and has to have a say in its reshaping. Any policy that might dilute Turkey's role and influence in the reshaping process will be costly for Turkey. . Let's all brain-storm a little: What would Turkey actually prefer in northern Iraq? Turkish soldiers meeting US forces in northern Iraq, or Turkish soldiers meeting Saddam's forces there? In which option will Turkey face a lesser possibility of refugees? You don't have to be a military strategist to provide answers to these questions. Turkey should not be engaged in a war, but should allow American troops and equipment to pass through the country. Turkish policy cannot be formulated based on the interests of a lame-duck dictator."

"The calendar "  
Sami Kohen wrote in mass appeal Milliyet (4/4): "The upcoming war is becoming more apparent every day. It is inevitable as well as imminent. . The northern front seems to be the best option, and it is also the US's preference. Yet the US is determined to open a northern front in any case with or without the help of Turkey. In the absence of Turkey's permission, US and UK troops will go ahead through alternate channels to provide a dual front: one from the north and one from the south. . Ankara tries to adjust the 'war calendar' based on its own interests, yet the fact of the matter is that there is very little we can do about it. Turkey is trapped between anti-war public opinion and problems related with war, and the reality of the war, which is imminent. . At the current stage, the argument that we should stay completely out of it is neither realistic nor pragmatic. The government will have to seek the parliament's approval for the modernization of bases, the transit movement of US troops, and the movement of Turkish troops to northern Iraq. It is only a matter of timing, and we better be catching up with the real calendar - that is, the deadline, which is February 14."

PEARSON